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Sweden Recounts Effort To Locate Wallenberg

STOCKHOLM, May 24 (UPI) — Sweden released documents today detailing its efforts over 20 years to discover the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, who saved thousands of Jews from the Nazi holocaust and was captured by the Soviet Union.

"We are working on the supposition that he is still alive," said the permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Leif Leifland, in introducing 42 volumes of evidence containing over 13,000 pages.

Mr. Wallenberg, who would be 70 in August, disappeared into Soviet "protective custody" in Budapest in 1945. Moscow says he died in 1947.

The newly released documents, covering the period from 1950 to 1970, include reports from Swedish diplomats as well as prisoners of war returning from the Soviet Union.

"We simply cannot believe the Soviet statement in 1957 that Wallenberg died in 1947," Mr. Leifland said.

"I think it's quite clear they suspected him of being a spy of the Western countries. They simply couldn't believe that he, a non-Jew, a Swede, was sent to Budapest to save Jews. They felt they had to investigate the case."